



Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From:
Securities and Exchange Commission
Office of FOIA Services
100 F Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549-2736

Extension: Rule 17f-2(c)

[SEC File No. 270-035, OMB Control No. 3235-0029]

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (“PRA”) (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the existing collection of information provided for in Rule 17f-2(c) (17 CFR 240.17f-2(c)), under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.). The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) for extension and approval.

Rule 17f-2(c) allows persons required to be fingerprinted pursuant to Section 17(f)(2) of the Act to submit their fingerprints to the Attorney General of the United States or its designee (i.e., the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”)) through a registered national securities exchange or a registered national securities association (collectively, also known as “self-regulatory organizations” or “SROs”) pursuant to a fingerprint plan filed with, and declared effective by, the Commission. Fingerprint plans have been declared effective for the American, Boston, Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia stock exchanges and for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”) and the Chicago Board Options Exchange. Currently, FINRA accounts for the bulk of the fingerprint submissions.

It is estimated that 3,900 respondents submit approximately 281,804 sets of fingerprints (consisting of approximately 253,721 electronic sets and 28,083 hard copy sets) to SROs on an

annual basis. The Commission estimates that it would take approximately 15 minutes to create and submit each fingerprint card. The total time burden is therefore estimated to be approximately 70,451 hours, or approximately 18 hours per respondent, annually.

In addition, the SROs charge an estimated \$26 fee for processing fingerprint cards submitted electronically, resulting in a total annual cost to all 3,900 respondents of approximately \$6,596,746 or approximately \$1,691 per respondent per year. The SROs charge an estimated \$41 fee for processing fingerprint cards submitted in hard copy, resulting in a total annual cost to all 3,900 respondents of approximately \$1,151,403, or approximately \$295 per respondent per year. The combined annual cost to all respondents is thus approximately \$7,748,149.

Because the FBI will not accept fingerprint cards directly from submitting organizations, Commission approval of fingerprint plans from certain SROs is essential to carry out the Congressional goal to fingerprint securities industry personnel. Filing these plans for review assures users and their personnel that fingerprint cards will be handled responsibly and with due care for confidentiality.

Written comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information under the PRA unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to: David Bottom, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Cynthia Roscoe, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

November 27, 2020.

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-26589 Filed: 12/1/2020 8:45 am; Publication Date: 12/2/2020]